

Commander's Call Topics



Oct. 30, 2009

This is the first edition of a new weekly Commander's Call Topics format which will be available online every Friday at <http://www.af.mil/information/cct/index.asp>. Visit <http://www.af.mil/information/subscribe/index.asp> to sign up for a weekly notification. Use the live links in the CCT for easy access to the Air Force News Service story or featured Web sites for detailed information.

"We will devote this year to identifying what we are doing right and what we need to do better to support the entire Air Force family, and to rekindle the sense of community that has been our tradition for so many generations."

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz on the Year of the Air Force Family

'Year of the Air Force Family' Web site launched

Airmen and their families can log on to <http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp> to learn about AF-wide initiatives, monthly themes and programs, as well as contact local installation Airman Family and Readiness Centers to find out about local events and activities.

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

SECAF, CSAF issue memo aimed at stopping private motor vehicle fatalities

In fiscal 2008, 29 Airmen were killed in motor vehicle mishaps. In fiscal 2009, 47 Airmen have died due to PMV mishaps. Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz wrote, "Our goal from this point on is ZERO Airmen lost in preventable PMV mishaps." Click [here](#) to view the Oct. 8, 2009 memorandum.

Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century emphasized

The AFSO21 program has shifted the focus of Airmen beyond applying unique skills to getting the mission done to continually improving mission performance. AFSO21 identifies performance gaps; allows Airmen to find innovative and effective ways to accomplish the mission; and brings everyone together to solve problems, exploit opportunities and maximize efficiencies.

New RSS categories -- Air Force senior leaders

Subscribe to the latest RSS feed from the Air Force's top leaders. News items on AF.mil featuring the Secretary of the Air Force, Air Force Chief of Staff and the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force are available at <http://www.af.mil/rss/>.

► CURRENT ISSUES

Air Force officials begin search for new aerial tanker

Senior Department of Defense and Air Force officials announced the rollout of the KC-X Acquisition Program. Air Force leaders are seeking a replacement for the KC-135 Stratotanker that has been a stalwart of the tanker fleet for more than 53 years. Air Force officials hope to announce a KC-X decision in the summer of 2010.

Global Strike Command leader updates progress

Lt. Gen. Frank G. Klotz, the Air Force Global Strike Command commander, affirmed the command's commitment to providing robust advocacy for current and future bomber capabilities in the conventional as well as the nuclear realm.

The ICBM mission transfer Dec. 1 will add approximately 8,000 personnel and stewardship of 450 Minuteman III missiles located at F. E. Warren AFB, Wyo., Malmstrom AFB, Mont., and Minot AFB, N.D., to the command. On Feb. 1, the nuclear-capable bomber mission transfer will add another 12,000 personnel and three bomb wings flying both B-2 Spirits and B-52 Stratofortresses.

UAS career field decisions, ISR organization discussed

For officers, an 18X Air Force Specialty Code will be created. The 18X career field will be considered "rated," carry a six-year active-duty service commitment, and will qualify for aircrew incentive pay. Future 18X pilots will earn the wings awarded to the graduates of the first [Beta-test class](#). A name for the 18X career field is still under consideration.

For enlisted, it was decided the previously created 1UOX sensor operator career field will be a subcategory under Career Enlisted Aviators. The sensor operators eventually will be compensated similarly with their CEA counterparts and will carry a three-year ADSC.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

Lessons Learned Program

The Air Force Lessons Learned Program is available to every Airman to improve our joint warfighting capabilities and influence Air Force decisions. Every Airman is valued and can initiate change across our Air Force by submitting an observation in the Joint Lessons Learned Information System. The JLLIS is a Web-based system available to search, get daily updates and submit observations to headquarters. Airmen can register at <https://www.jllis.mil/USAF/>.

Cyber security awareness

Everyone has the responsibility to protect the national infrastructure. It's always a good idea to review [cyber security tips](#), even if you've read them before. And if these tips are new to you, take them to heart.

Officials to announce chief master sergeant selections

The Chief Master Sergeant promotion list will be released publicly Nov. 5 at 8 a.m. CST on the Air Force Personnel Center's public Web site and on AFPC's "Ask" site at Spotlight and Enlisted Promotions. At 8 a.m. CST Nov. 5, Airmen can access their score notices on the virtual MPF and the Air Force Portal.

Stop loss Airmen eligible for compensation

Current and former Airmen who were involuntarily held on active duty beyond an approved separation or retirement date as a direct result of stop loss between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009, may be eligible for a Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay compensation of \$500 for each month they were affected. Airmen have until Oct. 21, 2010 to apply: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss/>.

Officials change promotion policy regarding senior NCO Academy

Completion of the resident Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy or a sister service equivalent will be required for promotion to senior master sergeant effective Jan. 1.

Recommended holiday mailing dates released for Afghanistan

Holiday mail send via first-class mail and priority mail for servicemembers stationed in Afghanistan should be sent by Dec. 4 for arrival by Christmas, the deadline for parcel airlift mail is Dec. 1, space-available mail is Nov. 21, and parcel post is Nov. 13.

UNIFORMS

BDU cold weather item authorized to wear with ABUs

Airmen are authorized to wear the battle dress uniform cold weather Gore-Tex and field jacket with the current airman battle uniform. Supply of ABU cold weather garments is affected by delivery trends. To ensure Airmen are equipped for adverse weather, the "mix and match" policy has been extended until May 1, 2010.

Air Force officials release fleece wear policy

The sage green fleece may only be worn over the ABU top, and is not authorized to be worn solely over a T-shirt, thermal underwear and similar undergarments, when worn as an outer garment. The uniform board has authorized wear of the sage green fleece without name tapes and rank as an outer garment until Oct. 1, 2010. Both the black and the green fleece without tapes and rank may be worn as a liner to the APECS. The black fleece will phase-out Oct. 1, 2010. New sage green fleece outer garments will be made available first to deployed Airmen.

CIVILIAN

Act ends controversial personnel system

With President Barack Obama's signature on the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, the National Security Personnel System is abolished. The new law gives Defense Department officials six months to develop and submit a plan to Congress detailing the transition, which must be finished by Jan. 1, 2012.

Air Force officials revise civilian hiring policy

Department of Defense civilian employees will now be referred to the hiring official along with current Air Force civilians for all permanent Air Force civilian positions. Former Air Force employees who were realigned under the Army or Navy because of Base Realignment and Closure or joint basing initiatives will have an avenue to return to the Air Force. For more information on Air Force civilian jobs, go online to <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afcivilianjobs>.

GUARD AND RESERVE

Additional ROTC instructor positions available to air Reserve component officers

ROTC instructor positions are available for Reserve component captains, majors and lieutenant colonels only. Information on detachments available under the AFROTC Limited Period Recall Program as well as application procedures can be found at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Air Force Family Week is Nov. 1-7

Each base will feature activities and programs that recognize and support all those who make up the Air Force Family. Air Force Family Week is part of the [Year of the Air Force Family](#) but also kicks-off the annual Military Family Appreciation Month. Visit your community center for details.

Web site offers help for military families in transition

The site, <http://www.TimeToTalk.org/military>, offers a guide for military parents on how to talk to their children during transitions such as a move or a deployment of a parent.

Air Force officials launch updated Key Spouse program

The Key Spouse program has been revised and standardized. Key Spouse is an official communication network to enhance readiness and establish a sense of community among unit leaders, Airmen and their families. Staff members from the installation Airmen and Family Readiness Center provide initial and update training and serve as a referral resource.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

Officials announce Homeowners Assistance Program details

The Homeowners Assistance Program is designed to partially reimburse those whose service to the nation has required them to relocate and sell their primary residence at a loss. The Army Corps of Engineers is handling the processing. To apply or get more information, go to <http://hap.usace.army.mil>, or read the [HAP Brochure](#).

VA to provide emergency checks to students awaiting benefits

Checks for up to \$3,000 are available to students who have applied for Veterans Affairs educational benefits and who have not yet received their government payment. The checks will be distributed to eligible students at VA regional benefits offices across the country. A list of VA regional offices is available at <http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/offices.asp>.

WARRIOR CARE

November is Warrior Care Month: Warrior Care Month is a DOD-wide effort aimed at increasing awareness of programs and resources available to wounded, ill and injured service members, their families and those who care about them. Visit the Air Force Wounded Warrior Web site at: <http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil/>.

Post-Deployment Health Check for Servicemembers and Civilians

Many deployers face unique health concerns, even long after returning home. To identify these and other issues, the DOD established the Post-Deployment Health Reassessment. The PDHRA, which only takes about 15 minutes to complete, is required for Airmen and civilian personnel who have been home for at least three months. For more information, go to <https://kx.afms.mil/PDHRA4U> (active duty) or <https://kx.afms.mil/civilianpdhra> (civilian personnel). Guard and Reserve members should call 1-888-PDHRA-99.

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Highlights

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/usafhighlights/index.asp>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Air Force Personnel Center

<http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

November is National American Indian Heritage Month: National American Indian Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes the accomplishments of the peoples who were the original inhabitants, explorers and settlers of the United States.

This Week in Air Force History

Nov. 2, 1971 – Titan IIIC rockets launched the first two Defense Satellite Communications System Phase II satellites into synchronous orbits.

Nov. 8, 1950 – First all-jet plane aerial combat in history took place over Korea. A U.S. Air Force F-80 Shooting Star, piloted by Lt. Russell J. Brown, downed a North Korean MiG-15.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit the Air Force Link heritage section at

<http://www.af.mil/information/heritage>.

The Defense Media Activity-San Antonio produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this or any other DMA-SA product, send e-mail to afproducts@dma.mil. To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to www.af.mil/information/subscribe.